

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01

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R 051623Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8165

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3071

SHAPE FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, DA, EFIN, PINT

SUBJ: BURDEN SHARING AND DEFENSE MINISTER'S VIEWS ON FORMING NEW
GOVT

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REF: STAT 237836, COPENHAGEN 3039 AND 3054

SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER TOLD ME TODAY THAT HE HOPED TO ATTEND PART OF MINISTERIAL AND BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE ON JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT, BUT PRESENT CARETAKER GOVT MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY. HE THINKS HE STILL HAS CHANCE OF BECOMING PRIME MINISTER IF BROAD COALITION CAN BE FORMED. OTHERWISE, HE FORESEES BRIEF PERIOD OF MINORITY GOVT, WITH NEW ELECTIONS AS EARLY AS SPRING 1974. END SUMMARY.

1. I DELIVERED SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S LETTER (STATE 237836) TO DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MILLER, EMPHASIZING THAT JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT MADE OFFSET OF OUR MILITARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN EUROPE MANDATORY AND THAT USG HAD NO DISCRETION IN MATTER. I HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT DANES WOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL AND THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SPITE OF GOVT'S CARETAKER STATUS. HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY LETTER AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS WILL COMPLICATE MATTERS

HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND FRIDAY SESSION OF DEFENSE MINISTERIAL BUT CONSULTATIONS WITH QUEEN ON THURSDAY WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO REMAIN IN COPENHAGEN THAT DAY.

2. IN COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, MOLLER REFLECTED ON PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS, OBSERVING THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FORM A NEW GOVT AT ALL. HE HIMSELF WAS ADVOCATING A BROAD COALITION COMPOSED OF FOUR OLD PARTIES (CONSERVATIVES, MODERATE LIBERALS, RADICAL LIBERALS AND HIS OWN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS), IF THIS COULD BE FORMED, HE BELIEVED IT COULD SERVE OUT PARLIAMENTARY TERM OF FOUR YEARS AND PERFORM MUCH USEFUL WORK. HE NOTED AT ONE POINT THAT ONLY SUCH A COALITION WOULD PERMIT HIM TO SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER, A POSSIBILITY NOT TO BE EXCLUDED, HE SAID. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE HE COULD SEE WOULD BE A MINORITY GOVT OF MODERATE AND RADICAL LIBERALS, HEADED BY EITHER FORMER PRIME MINISTER BAUNSGAARD OR FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HARTLING. IN THIS CASE, NEW ELECTIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY NEXT SPRING OR FALL.

3. ALTHOUGH ERHARD JAKOBSEN TOOK POSITION BEFORE ELECTIONS THAT HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO PERMIT CARETAKER GOVT TO EXTEND ITS TERM BEYOND MID-DECEMBER, MOLLER SAID HE BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE FOR CARETAKER REGIME TO LAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS. IN HIS OPINION, FORMATION OF NEW
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GOVT LIKELY TO BE LONG DRAWN OUT AFFAIR, INVOLVING SEVERAL ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS AMONG PARTIES AND SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH HER MAJESTY.

4. HE MADE IT CLEAR HE DID NOT REGARD MOGENS GLISTRUP AS A POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT IN ANY COALITION OR WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITHIN PARLIAMENT. IN FACT, HE SAID, A GROUP OF SEVEN OR EIGHT DEPUTIES ELECTED UNDER GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY BANNER HAVE TOLD HIM

THEY PLAN TO SPLIT OFF AND FORM A NEW "INDEPENDENT" PARTY AS SOON
AS PARLIAMENT BEGINS ITS NEW SESSION ON DECEMBER 18. THIS WILL
INCREASE NUMBER OF PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT TO ELEVEN.
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